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Environment Department Invites Public to Middle Rio Grande Water Quality Meeting

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 16 in Rio Rancho. The purpose of this meeting is to seek public input and involvement with surface water quality planning for the Middle Rio Grande watershed.

The public meeting will be part of the Middle Rio Grande Workgroup meeting to be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on February 16th. The Surface Water Quality Bureau is scheduled to present from 9:30 to 10:45. The meeting will be held at the Rio Rancho City Council Chambers at 3900 Southern Blvd. SE in Rio Rancho.

At this meeting, NMED will offer information on watershed activities and programs, as well as provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and supply comments and suggestions on watershed needs and priorities. Representatives from the NMED's SWQB will also discuss the monitoring plan for the Middle Rio Grande watershed, pollution control measures, and future Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals for water quality conditions. It includes reduction estimates for pollutants currently exceeding state surface water quality standards and an implementation plan suggesting what actions might be carried out to restore or protect the health of the body of water.

Additional information can be found on the Environment Department's website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>.

For more information, contact Stephanie Stringer, Environmental Specialist with the NMED SWQB at (505) 827-0152, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.